

CHAPTER 9  
SECTION 4.1

## BENEFIT AUTHORIZATION

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### I. POLICY

A. Except as provided in paragraph I.B., the Managed Care Support Contractor (MCSC) will provide the required authorization for requested services and items under the ECHO.

B. In the case of beneficiaries residing overseas, the TRICARE Overseas Program Regional Directors (TOP-RDs) or designees are responsible for authorizing ECHO benefits.

C. The authorization is based upon the following:

1. The beneficiary is registered in the ECHO; and
2. The requested service or item is allowable as a ECHO benefit; and
3. The requested service or item meets the public facility use requirements when applicable.

D. The authorization shall specify the services by type, scope, frequency, duration, dates, amounts, requirements, limitations, provider name and address, and all other information necessary to provide exact identification of approved benefits. Claims can not be adjudicated without this information.

E. The authorization shall remain in effect until such time as the MCSC determines that:

1. The beneficiary is no longer eligible for the ECHO; or
2. The authorized ECHO service or item is no longer appropriate or required by the beneficiary; or
3. The authorized ECHO service or item becomes a benefit through the TRICARE Basic Program.

F. Upon implementation of the ECHO, no new, additional or continuing benefits under the Program for Persons with Disabilities (PPPWD) will be authorized.

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G. A TRICARE beneficiary who has an outstanding PFPWD) benefit authorization on the date of implementation of the ECHO shall continue to receive such authorized PFPWD benefit(s) for the duration of that authorization period provided the beneficiary remains eligible for the PFPWD. However, if the beneficiary requests ECHO benefits prior to expiration of the PFPWD authorization, the beneficiary shall establish eligibility for the ECHO and meet all applicable ECHO requirements. All remaining outstanding PFPWD authorizations will expire at that time.

H. Notwithstanding the requirements of [paragraph I.G.](#), at the time of implementation of the ECHO, a previously issued PFPWD authorization for proration of equipment will be accepted by the MCSC having jurisdiction where the beneficiary resides. Until such time as the proration period ends, the gaining MCSC will continue to authorize the monthly prorated amount, submit required payments to the equipment vendor, and receive the sponsor's monthly cost-share. This is also applicable when a beneficiary moves from the jurisdiction of the MCSC or TOP-RD who issued an authorization for an ECHO benefit to the jurisdiction of another MCSC or TOP-RD. The prohibition of cost-sharing items through the ECHO for items that are available through the Basic Program does not apply in the case of durable medical equipment or durable equipment that was authorized through the PFPWD and for which the proration period extends from the PFPWD into the ECHO.

I. The MCSC or TOP-RD may waive the required written authorization for rendered services and items that, except for the absence of the written authorization, would be allowable as an ECHO benefit.

J. The MCSC or TOP-RD may waive the required public facility use certification when such waiver is appropriate. See [Chapter 9, Section 5.1](#).

II. EFFECTIVE DATE                      September 1, 2005.

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